



City of Fort Wright

409 Kyles Lane | Fort Wright, KY 41011 | www.fortwright.com | 859.331.1700

City of Fort Wright Caucus Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Dave Hatter. Mayor Hatter led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. City Clerk Maura Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Present
Councilman Feinauer	Present
Councilman Wall	Absent
Councilman Weber	Present
Councilman Wessels	Present
Councilwoman Witt	Present

Also present for the meeting were:

City Administrative Officer Jill Bailey
City Attorney Tim Theissen
Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe
Police Chief Ed Butler
Public Works Director Jeff Bethell
City Clerk Maura Russell

CITIZEN COMMENTS/GUESTS

There were no citizen comments or guests.

Mayor Hatter requested a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion about the Brent Spence Bridge. Councilman Feinauer made a motion and Councilman Abeln made the second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hatter also commented on the recent election, saying he is very happy with the results and is happy to work with this Council, aside from Councilman Feinauer who did not run, again.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Z21 Project (PDS Staff Presentation Andy Videkovich & Cody Sheets) – Andy Videkovich, Planning Manager, and Cody Sheets, Associate Planner, both with PDS [Planning and Development Services of Kenton County] presented updates to the Z21 project [zoning regulation updates] for the City of Fort Wright. Mr. Sheets thanked Ms. Bailey and Mr. Bethell for the hours of time and meetings they put into this process.

There was discussion on items Council for which had previously requested additional clarification, including parcel conversion totals, parking changes, and two- and multi-family residential housing impacts. Mr. Theissen confirmed that Council could request to have a stipulation in the code to allow any pre-existing structure, such as duplexes, be rebuilt should something happen to destroy more than 50% of the structure.

Mr. Sheets and Mr. Videkovich confirmed that a review process does exist to ensure any changes that need to be made to the regulations can be addressed moving forward, and they encouraged Council to approach PDS at anytime if they feel there is an issue that should be addressed.

Mr. Videkovich said the next steps are refining the code to ensure Council is comfortable, then they would authorize the application process. Council and Mayor Hatter agreed to delay a couple months until Jason Collins was able to catch up with this project and give input. Mr. Videkovich confirmed that notification will not go out to every property impacted as this is not a map amendment, but the rescinding of an old and implementation of a new zoning ordinance.

Volunteer Park – Ms. Bailey advised Council that an arborist had checked the large oak trees at Volunteer Park and said they were healthy, but then a couple came down in a storm over the summer causing damage to the play structure. She said the concern is that if any of the six remaining oak trees come down, that they will fall in the opposite direction onto a house which would destroy anything inside the house and could kill people. Ms. Bailey said a quote has been received for \$15,000 to remove the trees and she recommends budgeting about \$5,000 for replacements.

After discussion, Council requested at least one more opinion on the health of the trees. Mr. Bethell said he would do that and then report back to Council with an updated recommendation.

Brent Spence Bridge aesthetics – Mayor Hatter said he and Ms. Bailey recently met with Kentucky Transportation Cabinet officials from District Six and Frankfort, along with design firm Human Nature and representatives from the City of Fort Mitchell and Kenton County to discuss aesthetic of the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor project, including the overpasses at Kyles Lane and Dixie Highway. He said the goal would be to coordinate the overpasses thematically and that Human Nature presented many good ideas on what the projects could look like.

Ms. Bailey said there will be another meeting in late January or early February, and they would like Council to provide feedback on everything from landscaping to lighting to materials used and what to incorporate. Mayor Hatter requested the Community Improvement Committee develop a list of what they would like by January and then Council can comment and approve to have that sent to the design team.

Ms. Bailey addressed the Gateway Signage Project, saying the samples had arrived. Council confirmed that they are okay with moving forward on the black with white lettering for best contract. There was also discussion on the panel that sits above the digital sign in front of the City Administration Building.

Ms. Bailey said there are approximately 126 white folding chairs that came from the closed museum and have been stored at Highland Cemetery for over a year that need to be surplussed. She requested Council's approval to allow Highland Cemetery to keep the chairs and then a formal Municipal Order would be drafted for a future meeting for surplussing.

Councilwoman Witt requested the holiday lights on the City Administration Building not be lit until the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 3rd, at 6:00 PM.

Councilwoman Witt asked for a calendar be created with tasks that happen throughout the year added so Councilmembers can know what will be coming up at different times of the year, including the audit, road project bidding, etc. Mayor Hatter suggested a working group be formed to document processes for continuity for long- and short-term needs and this could be handled by that group.

Councilman Wessels thanked everyone for reaching out and their thoughts for him and his family during Hurricane Ian.

Mayor Hatter closed by saying he will be reaching out to Kenton County Clerk Gabrielle Summe regarding Election Day logistics at Fort Wright Civic Club.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Councilman Abeln made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Councilwoman Witt made a second. Ms. Russell called the roll.

Councilman Abeln	Yes
Councilman Feinauer	Yes
Councilman Weber	Yes
Councilman Wessels	Yes
Councilwoman Witt	Yes

MOTION CARRIED

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Hatter, Mayor

Attest:



Maura Russell
City Clerk